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with fine specimens of *Asplenium platyneuron*, a little more than a mile west of Woodstock, that is, about eight miles west from Quechee, and Mr. J. G. Underwood reports it within about five miles.

Among the more common ferns we saw in the Gulf, were *Adiantum*; *Dryopteris marginalis*; *D. Thelypteris* and *D. intermedia*; *Athyrium angustum* (Willd.) Presl and possibly the variety *elatus*. *Cystopteris bulbifera* grew in profusion all along the lower sides of the cliffs and we found a few fronds of *C. fragilis* in the Gulf and also in the pastures above it. *Polypodium vulgare* was abundant in places, and we saw two of the Osmundas, *O. regalis* at the very water's edge, with *O. cinnamomea* not far away. Up in the pasture we found not only the fragile bladder fern but *W. ilvensis*, *Dicksonia punctilobula* and *Pteris aquilina*. Along the railway just beyond Dewey's as we were going off we saw *Onoclea sensibilis* and *O. Struthiopteris*. Most of these ferns are abundant in the district. But we doubt if in many other places the three rarer Woodsias can be found in so small a radius, and if in any other place so far south and at so low an elevation one can find such a station of *Wood-sia alpina*.

BURLINGTON, N. J.

Recent Fern Literature

Dr. J. H. Barnhart has published an interesting account of an American writer on ferns who is little known to most of us—William Brackenridge.¹ Brackenridge's own modesty and retiring disposition has made biographical material in regard to him difficult to obtain, but Dr. Barnhart has been able to put together a fairly complete narrative of his life.

¹Barnhart, J. H. Brackenridge and his book on ferns. Journ. N. Y. Bot. Garden 20: 117-124. June, 1919.

He was one of the honorable company of gardeners who have proved themselves also good botanists. Born at Ayr, Scotland, June 16, 1810, he came to this country in 1837 and entered the employ of a Philadelphia nurseryman. The next year he received an appointment as horticulturist and assistant botanist of the United States Exploring Expedition under command of Captain Wilkes and sailed with it in August, 1838. The expedition spent three and a half years in explorations in South America, the islands of the Pacific Ocean and the then little known coasts of California and Oregon, returning in June, 1842. It brought back some ten thousand specimens of dried plants, 100 living ones and many seeds.

The organization of the expedition was continued in order to work up its scientific results. Brackenridge was put in charge of growing the plants brought home and raised from seed and in this work he continued until 1854, when the organization was broken up. To him also was assigned the duty of reporting on the ferns collected. There have been few authors more unfortunate than was Brackenridge with this, his one botanical work. His initial difficulty—that he knew no Latin—was overcome with the aid of Professors Torrey and Gray, who translated his descriptions into that language, and the work was duly issued in 1854, only to have the greater part of the edition destroyed by two nearly simultaneous fires, one in Washington, and one at the printers' in Philadelphia. As a result, complete copies of this Report—an excellent piece of work—are rare.

After leaving the Government service, Brackenridge established himself as a nurseryman and landscape architect near Baltimore and there remained until his death, February 3, 1893.